

DEFENDANT'S  
EXHIBIT

337

U.S. v. Moussaoui  
Cr. No. 01-455-A

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Histoire: Shaheed Masood Al-Benln, correspondant de  
Qoqaz.net, martyr le 12 Avril 2000

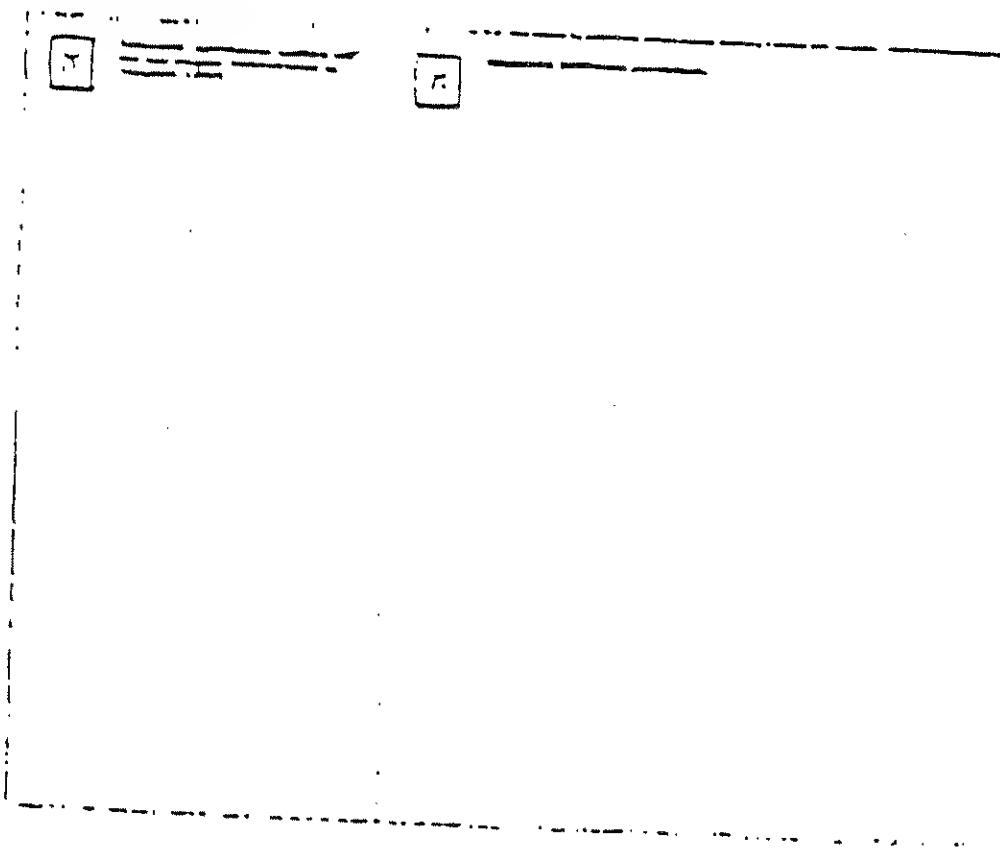
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## Story: Qoqaz.net Correspondent Shaheed Masood Al-Benin, martyred 12 April 2000



*"Masood Al-Benin: Born in France, Lived in London and Buried in Chechnya"*  
Masood was killed whilst injured in a Russian ambush near Shatoi.

The following article details a first hand account story of the Qoqaz correspondent Masood killed 12th April 2000. May Allah accept him from amongst the Shuhadaa.

Our dear beloved brother, Masood was a personification of the verse.

*"O you who believe! Whoever from among you turns back from his religion (Islam), Allah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him; humble towards the believers, stern towards the disbelievers, fighting in the Way of Allah, and never afraid of the blame of the blamers. That is the grace of Allah which He bestows on whom He wills. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knowing." [Quran 5:54]*

<http://hercule52/Divers/63.249.218.164/html/chechnyaqoqazmasood.htm>

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Born and brought up in France by non Muslim parents, his mother was a blue eyed native French woman, his father a tall African man from Benin. Following his graduation in mechanical engineering, he traveled to London where he continued his studies with a master's degree in business studies. It was to be during his Masters degree that Allah opened his heart to Islam. He had a great keenness to learn and play an active role in Islamic related work. He used to be known for his Islamic dress, which rapidly became his trademark, even at his place of work.

Upon hearing a lecture on the importance of Jihad and subsequently meeting ex-Mujahideen veterans, Masood had become surprisingly alarmed of how the Muslims had neglected the duty of Jihad, during a period whereby Muslims were being slaughtered in large numbers across the globe. And so in a small way, he attempted to redress the balance, and made an intention to travel to Afghanistan (with his brother Mu'adh), whereby he could undergo military training.

Mu'adh recalls Masood saying:

*"Every Muslim considers himself as balanced BUT the balance is set according to the Prophet (SAS), so if the Prophet (SAS) has participated in (military) Jihad 27 times in his life and we have not even done this action once. How then can we say we are balanced and that we follow the way of the prophet (SAS)?"*

A week prior to Masood's departure to the land of Afghanistan, He met his brother Abu Azzam. Abu Azzam had made arrangements to travel to Chechnya via a corridor made possible due to a lull in fighting (during the 1994-1996 conflict). Soon after learning about Abu Azzam's plans, Masood and Mu'adh altered their travel arrangements to accompany Abu Azzam to the land of Chechnya. Prior to the groups' departure, Abu Azzam recalls Masood's comments with reference to the Masters degree in business studies, which he had recently completed:

*"I have spent the last year or so studying business, but now I am going to commence my business career by performing business with Allah, Insha-Allah! For Allah says in the Quran: O You who believe! Shall I guide you to a business commerce that will save you from a painful torment? That you believe in Allah and His messenger and that you strive hard and fight in the cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives, that will be better for you, if you but knew! (Quran 61:10-11)"*

Our brother had accepted Islam for less than a year prior to the completion of his ambition to travel to fight in the way of Allah, which he realized by migrating to Chechnya. Before the brothers left for Chechnya they decided to sit together and practice the Sunnah of choosing kunya's (nicknames) for one another. The kunya Masood (meaning to be happy) was unanimously chosen for the brother as he was always seen to be making his brothers smile, even when they were in the worst of moods.

Masood didn't like brothers calling him Al-Britanni, or Al-Francee (the Briton, the Frenchman); Abu Azzam recalls Masood's words:

*"When we do anything in life it should be according to the Qur'an and sunnah, not according to the laws of the disbelievers or the ways of the disbelievers. Just because I have a European passport it doesn't mean I am from this country. As the Prophet (saw) said that 'You are from the tribe of your father' so I will call myself Masood Al-Benin."*

The group arrived in Chechnya as the (1994-1996) conflict was drawing to an end. Despite the end of the (1994-1996) jihad, much work remained to be completed in Chechnya - primarily in the field of Daw'ah (Islamic education), establishing Shariah courts and military training. After completing a number of specialized military training courses, Masood was assigned a role in the Daw'ah camp

<http://hercule/S2/Divers/63.249.213.164/html/chechnyaaprofmasood.htm>

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which involved the use of his IT skills to setup and maintain a computer lab and to teach IT skills to the brothers. Of the thirty Shariah courts that were formed up until 1998, Masood had setup a computer for each one of them, hence documenting every case that would come through.

In the ensuing few months, Masood's companion - Mu'adh decided to leave Chechnya. Shortly after, Abu Azzam and Masood also decided to return home together. Literally one hour prior to their expected departure, Sheikh Abu Umar (the Sheikh of the Foreign Mujahideen in Chechnya) learnt of Masood's anticipated departure, he came to him and advised him to remain with the brothers as his knowledge of IT was an essential commodity to the Mujahideen. Abu Azzam comments on Masood's response:

*"When Sheikh Abu Umar came to Masood and told him to stay, I can still recall Masood's face lighting up into a big smile, as he had never really wanted to return to the corrupt land of the disbelievers."*

For the following years Masood remained in Chechnya, his memorization of Quran and fluency in Arabic and his Emaan increased, he had continuously played an active and vital role for the Mujahideen. Upon reaching an adequate level in spoken Arabic, Masood refused to converse with the Arab brothers in English and French. Instead he would state that English and French are languages that are primarily used by the disbelievers and have less blessing than the language of the Quran and of the inhabitants of paradise.

The fruit of his works and patience culminated in a mighty reward - His presence during the commencement of the fiercest fighting in the history of the foreign Mujahideen. After the conclusion of each military operation, Masood's duties included video editing, adding titles, etc to the footage of the operations. The videos edited by Masood are currently in circulation all over the world (Masood edited video footage can be seen on the Qoqaz websites).

Our Mujahid brother Abu Adil says about him: *"Mashallah, all the brothers knew him to be an excellent brother in character, the effort he put in for the video and his conduct in battle (brothers witnessed him killing many Russians during his last operation). ~~Alhamdulillah~~ Allah had elevated him by bringing him from the streets of France and London to be shaheed in the land of Jihad alongside the Mujahideen and as a Mujahid."*

During the Duba-Yurt operations during January-February 2000, Masood had been injured in his right leg by a mortar. Due to the severity of Masood's injuries and that of four other brothers (compounded by the lack of Muslim doctors willing to go to the lands of Jihad) it was necessary to transport the brothers out of Chechnya to seek specialized medical attention. It was to be during this journey that our dear brothers including Masood had obtained that which they had yearned, sacrificed and hoped for - Martyrdom in the path of Allah. The injured brothers were transported in a truck. They consisted of Masood, two other foreign Mujahideen and two Chechens. The truck was stopped near Shatoi at a Russian checkpoint; the bribed Russian colonel that had been supervising their passage out, and two brothers were seized from the cabin. The remaining three injured brothers at the rear of the truck, including Masood, preferred to die fighting than to fall into the hands of the cowards. Despite already being seriously injured, they opened fire and mowed down numerous OMON troops before being killed themselves by a hail of frenzied Russian fire.

And so, it was decreed by Allah that the final business transaction performed by our business studies post graduate was to be his most profitable (Inshallah!)-Trading his soul with Allah, as Allah informs us:

*"Verify, Allah has purchased of the believers their lives and their properties; for the price that their shall be paradise. They fight in Allah's cause, so they kill and are killed. It is a contract*

<http://hercule/S2.Divers/63.149.213.164/html/chechnya/proofmasood.htm>

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*(promise) in truth which is binding on him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Quran. And who is truer to his covenant than Allah? Then rejoice in the bargain which you have concluded. That is the supreme success." [Quran 9:111]*

Coming Soon: Masood's Letter to Abu Azzam, Dated: February 2000

E-Mail a Message of Support to the friends of our Hero Masood Al-Benin on [qoqaz@azzam.com](mailto:qoqaz@azzam.com).  
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E-Mails of Support sent to the Friends of Shaheed Masood Al-Benin by Visitors to the [qoqaz.net](http://qoqaz.net) Web-Site

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Assalamu-alaikum.

My Dear brother and friend, you will be missed.

We ask that Allah accepts you from amongst the Shuhadaa and makes us from amongst those who join you.

Until then, we bid you farewell, with a tearful smile.

[Brothers, UK, 23 April 2000]

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